

Appln. No.: 10/848,784

Reply to Office action of February 28, 2005

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A gasket assembly comprising:
 - a first carrier layer;
 - a second carrier layer;
 - said first and second carrier layers being separately formed;
 - said first and second carrier layers being laminated to define a laminated carrier;
 - at least one aligned opening formed in said carrier;
 - an elastomeric seal formed on said carrier having a first sealing bead surrounding said opening on one side of said carrier and a second sealing bead surrounding said opening on an opposite side of said carrier;
 - said sealing beads defining respective sealing contact surfaces spaced axially outwardly of the opposite sides of said carrier; and
 - said sealing contact surfaces being asymmetrical relative to on another; and wherein said carrier includes a sealing channel spaced outwardly of said opening and in which said seal is formed.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) The assembly of ~~claim 2~~ claim 1 wherein said sealing channel extends, at least in part, completely through said carrier layers.
4. (Original) The assembly of claim 3 wherein said seal extends fully through said sealing channel to said opposite sides of said carrier.
5. (Original) The assembly of claim 4 wherein said sealing channel includes a sealing channel portion formed in each of said carrier layers, and where said sealing channel

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portions are in open communication with one another but are asymmetrically arranged relative to one another.

6. (Original) The assembly of claim 5 wherein the sealing channel portions have a trace that is essentially the same trace as that of the sealing bead associated with the respective sealing channel portion.

7. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein at least one of the sealing contact surfaces is eccentrically arranged relative to said opening in said carrier.

8. (Original) The assembly of claim 3 wherein said seal is formed as one continuous piece between said sealing beads on said opposite side of said carrier.

9. (Original) The assembly of claim 3 wherein said sealing channel is interrupted by a plurality of bridging portions.

10. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said sealing bead on one side of said carrier is eccentrically arranged relative to said sealing bead on the opposite side of said carrier.

11. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said sealing bead on one side of said carrier has a circumferential trace that is different than that of a trace of said sealing bead on the opposite side of said carrier.

12. (Original) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said sealing bead on one side of said carrier has other than a mirrored relationship with said sealing bead on the opposite side of said carrier.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a seal between two members across a parting plane to seal an opening communicating between the members across the parting plane, and where the opening communicating between the members are asymmetrically arranged relative to one another, the method including:

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preparing a gasket assembly having at least two separately formed carrier layers joined to define a laminated carrier having at least one opening therethrough corresponding in location to the opening of the members to be sealed across the parting plane,

molding an elastomeric seal to the laminated carrier to define sealing beads on opposite sides of the laminated carrier surrounding the opening of the laminated carrier, the sealing beads extending axially outwardly of the opposite sides of the laminated carrier to define opposing sealing bead contact surfaces; and

wherein the sealing bead contact surfaces are formed in asymmetric relationship to one another in accordance with the asymmetric relationship of the openings of the members to be sealed across the parting plane, and including forming a sealing channel through the carrier adjacent the opening in the carrier and molding the seal in the channel.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 14~~ claim 13 including forming the carrier with bridging portions extending across the channel.